Construction of the recombinant Ad-BSP-TK virus was accomplished as shown in FIG. 1. All plasmids were constructed according to standard protocols. Briefly, pΔE1SP1, a shuttle vector which contains the 5' end part of the adenovirus genome with the El-region deleted, was digested witb Xho-1 (New England Biolabs, Beverly, Mass.) and treated with alkaline phosphatase (Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN) according to the supplier's protocols. The 1418 bp BSP fragment was prepared using PCR. Specifically, a first primer set was used to amplify a 1467 bp insert. These primers were:

BSP1 - GTGGCACATATACACCATGG (SEQ ID NO:2)
BSP2 - AATCTTACCCTCTGGCAGTC (SEQ ID NO:3).

Internal primers to the 1467 bp fragment were then used to generate the 1418 bp BSP promoter. The internal primers were:

BSP3 - CCATGGAATACTATGCAGCC (SEQ ID NO:4)
BSP4 - TGGAGTGAGGAAGCAGGCTC (SEQ ID NO:5).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5, 23, 24 and 25 to recite as follows:

5 (once amended). The therapeutic agent of claim 1, wherein said BSP promoter comprises nucleotides -1349 to +69 depicted in Figures 8A-8B (SEQ ID NO:1).

23 (once amended). The method of claim 18, wherein said BSP regulatory region sequence comprises nucleotides -1349 to +69 depicted in Figures 8A-8B (SEQ ID NO:1).

24 (once amended). The method of claim 23, wherein said BSP regulatory region sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides -1349 to +69 depicted in Figures 8A-8B (SEQ ID NO:1).

25 (once amended). The method of claim 23, wherein said BSP regulatory region sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides -1349 to +69 depicted in Figures 8A-8B (SEQ ID NO:1).